

Earth Day

IS EVERYDAY WHEN YOU REUSE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY!

Join Us
April 22, 2014



Earth Day ideas
you can do:

- * Identify equipment that can be reused
- * Tell someone you know about equipment reuse
- * [Contact Lauren to learn more and explore how you can be part of reuse in Nebraska](#)

Going Green For Good!

Lauren Rock
Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

When people think reuse, they may think about reusing plastic bags, bottles or paper. Many may not think about wheelchairs, canes, phones, amplified phones, and scooters.

Through a collaborative effort, Nebraska agencies and organizations are working to raise awareness of assistive technology (AT) reuse and its benefits.

AT is any device, gadget, hardware, software, or durable medical equipment that is used to help people improve their capabilities. It can be a wheelchair, lift, or communication device. Nebraskans who experience a disability often need AT and may lack resources to purchase new or replacement equipment. Others need a short-term solution due to an injury, surgery, or illness.

Reuse is the connection of used AT to individuals who need it. *Reusing equipment means items are not thrown away, lessening the negative impact on the environment, and increasing the benefit to those in need.*

Eldin Plettner is the Executive Director of Panhandle Independent Living Services (PILS) in Gering, Nebraska. PILS is one of the organizations working to develop an AT Reuse Network in Nebraska which will encourage and promote equipment reuse. Recently, he partnered with Nancy Castillo and Aging Partners, another reuse partner in Lincoln, to find a new home for a power wheelchair.

Plettner said, "Nancy contacted me inquiring about a power wheelchair. I told her I had two that were available." Plettner had family traveling to the Lincoln area, who offered to transport the chairs to Lincoln.

Castillo was able to find photos of the chairs on the web, making it possible for the individual to determine which chair would work best. The chair she chose was delivered to her and is now meeting her mobility needs.

"The power chair was donated by my father who passed away last December," Plettner said. "The chair sells for \$3,600 online and \$7,200 retail. The substantial savings resulted in an individual getting to live her life as independently as she can."

The Assistive Technology Partnership has been promoting and facilitating AT reuse for ten years through [AT4ALL](#), a web based equipment loan and distribution service. Users create an account on at4all.com and have access to a wide variety AT available for demonstration, short-term loan or give away. Many of these items are donated to ATP offices and then given to consumers who need the equipment.

Since October 1, 2103, 117 items have been redistributed through AT4ALL. Plettner states PILS has distributed 60 reuse items and Costillo reports Aging Partners has distributed 51 pieces, one valued at \$5,000. These 228 items are now benefitting Nebraskans instead of being sent to the landfill.

[Contact Lauren Rock for more information on reuse and to join the network](#)

**[WATCH THE VIDEO DRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE
AND SEE REUSE IN ACTION](#)**



Assistive Technology Partnership



www.atp.ne.gov
(877) 201-4141

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to nancy.noha@nebraska.gov by lauren.rock@nebraska.gov |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership | 3901 N. 27th Street | Suite 5 | Lincoln | NE | 68521